

Technician Professional Development Conference  
Wednesday 17 April 2013 – Westminster



Institution of  
**MECHANICAL  
ENGINEERS**

**IRTE**



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# Join the Technician Debate

Three professional organisations are joining together to host an essential event recognising and valuing technicians and fleet engineers.

Freight Transport Association (FTA), the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE) and IRTE (Institute of Road Transport Engineers) – a professional sector of the Society of Operations Engineers (SOE) – are keen to examine and promote the vital role technicians play within the transport industry.

The Technician Professional Development Conference will provide a unique forum to discuss:

- the vital role of technicians
- the lack of investment by many repairers over the past decade
- training and assessment pathways
- technological challenges during 2013 – 2018
- benefits of reducing vehicle downtime
- the need for industry collaboration



Vehicle operators are increasingly concerned that vehicle downtime and costs will become more burdensome in the face of technological developments unless the industry starts addressing the shortage of premium technicians.

This conference will help the UK make the most of vehicle engineers, ensuring the industry can maintain and improve the skills needed to develop future transport infrastructure.

## Event details

**Date:** Wednesday 17 April 2013

**Time:** 09.30-16.30  
(registration from 09.00am)

**Venue:** IMechE, One Birdcage Walk, Westminster, London SW1H 9JJ

## Prices

**FTA, IMechE or IRTE members** – £225 + VAT per delegate

**Non-members** – £275 + VAT per delegate

**Book before 28 February for the discounted Early Bird price of £200 + VAT per member or £250 + VAT per non-member**

# Programme

## MORNING

**Coffee and registration** (from 09.00) and **Introduction from Chairman**  
– Gary Whittam

### Keynote address

- the vital role of technicians
- advancing technology and skill appreciation

### Engineering Council – Jon Prichard

- the Engineering Council and importance of registration
- a progress summary of the Technician Registration and Membership (TRaM) project
- the Gatsby Foundation – supported by Daniel Sandford Smith

### An update from VOSA – Alastair Peoples

- the latest about Authorised Testing Facilities
- annual test pass rates and roadworthiness
- a view of technician requirements for the future

### O Licensing from the Senior Traffic Commissioner's perspective

– Beverley Bell

- local compliance priorities for Traffic Commissioners
- relationship between operators and maintenance providers
- impact of European regulations on transport managers
- a view on industry collaboration

### Carbon monitoring for future commercial vehicles – The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders

- anticipated EU regulations for monitoring carbon emissions



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## AFTERNOON

### Technician Development Group – Lawrie Alford

- overview of the consultations that took place during 2012 addressing future issues for technicians
- findings from vehicle manufacturers, hire/leasing companies and local authorities
- monitoring unplanned downtime

### The Bloodhound Project – to be confirmed

- an exciting and dynamic engineering challenge

### Technician licensing and IRTE Workshop Accreditation – SOE

- a summary of irtec and future plans for Master Technician
- IRTE Workshop Accreditation in action

### New technology

- Euro VI summary
- the latest in hybrid commercial vehicles – Nick Blake (Canter) and John Bickerton (First Group)
- how the PCV sector has integrated hybrid repairs within their in-house workshops

### Open forum discussing technician training and pathways

- diagnostic training
- closing remarks

*A number of innovation slots will also take place throughout the day featuring messages from relevant industry partners*

Times, speakers and programme are for guidance only and are subject to change

To book your place visit [www.fta.co.uk/events](http://www.fta.co.uk/events) or call 08717 11 22 22\*

## A little bit more about the speakers

### Beverley Bell – Senior Traffic Commissioner

Beverley is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport and a Fellow of the Society of Operations Engineers. She also holds the Certificate of Professional Competence in National Road Haulage Transport.

In June 2012 she was appointed Senior Traffic Commissioner for Great Britain for a four year term. In this statutory role, Beverley is responsible for giving guidance and direction to her fellow Commissioners on a range of matters. Beverley works closely with VOSA, the Department for Transport, other Government agencies and the industry to champion safe, fair and reliable passenger and goods transport.

### John Bickerton – First Group – UK Bus, Technical Standards Manager

John was a bus driver for First while studying Mechanical Engineering at Bath University. He worked for Cosworth and Lotus, and managed a London bus workshop before focusing on fuel saving projects for First, leading the company's DriveGreen initiative, which delivered improvements in vehicle collision, injury rates and fuel savings. John is now responsible for promoting and controlling technical excellence throughout First's UK Bus operations, including liaison with suppliers and vehicle manufacturers.

### Alastair Peoples – Chief Executive, VOSA

Alastair began his Civil Service career over 30 years ago at the Driver and Vehicle Testing Agency (DVTA) in Northern Ireland. He joined VOSA in 2004 as Operations

Director, and moved on to Strategy & Performance Director and Deputy Chief Executive in April 2008.

He was appointed as Chief Executive in August 2009, and is now leading VOSA through a programme to transform its services, in order to provide an efficient, modern service which meets 21st century industry needs.

### Jon Prichard – Chief Executive Officer, Engineering Council

Jon was commissioned into the Royal Engineers in December 1983 and served in various appointments across Europe during the subsequent 18 years. He qualified as a Chartered Civil Engineer in 1997.

He joined the staff of the Institution of Civil Engineers in 2001, serving initially as Membership Director and then as Technical Director. In August 2007, he joined the construction consultancy High-Point Rendel as Resources Director. In August 2010, Jon took over as Chief Executive Officer of the Engineering Council.

### Gary Whittam – Industry Consultant

Gary has over 40 years experience in the commercial vehicle industry, having started as an apprentice heavy commercial vehicle technician. He later joined Ford Motor Company and spent considerable time in service and customer support functions, writing service bulletins and workshop manuals. His career has seen him progress from Technical Writer to Commercial Vehicle Director. He now spends his time working on initiatives that improve the commercial vehicle business in terms of carbon, cost and technology.

**Book your place today using one of the options below**



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Send an email to [events@fta.co.uk](mailto:events@fta.co.uk)

*Terms and conditions: Cancellations must be received 14 days prior to the conference in order for fees to be returned in full (no refund of fees is possible if less than 14 days' notice of cancellation is given). Substitution of delegates is allowed at any time without cost.*

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